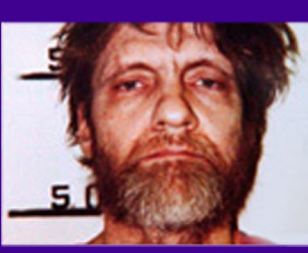

Sincerely yours,
Ted Kaczynski

THE
UNABOMBER LETTERS
A YAHOO NEWS SPECIAL REPORT

Ted Kaczynski, math tutor

Since his arrest in 1996, Kaczynski, a Harvard graduate and mathematician, has received hundreds of letters from students. Some sought help with algebra problems, others asked him about his ideas on technology and society.

The selection was curated by Yahoo News

YAHOO! NEWS

Dear π:

I was tempted to begin this letter, "Dear 3.14159...," but then it occurred to me that you have probably encountered that joke several times before, and are tired of it by now.

I enjoyed your letter very much. Apropos of your tale of the "priest" who needed $28, when I was at Harvard I was approached by an "honest mechanic" (as he styled himself) who needed 50¢ fare to get back to his home in (I think) Scituate. He claimed he had just earned 25¢ by washing a car (which he pointed out) and he asked me to give him the other 25¢. The only change I had in my pocket was a nickel, and I offered him that, but he refused it scornfully. Apparently he was a high-toned panhandler who wouldn't take anything as small as a nickel.

More often than not I do give something to panhandlers, if only a quarter or two, because I feel sorry for them. Not $28, though.

You say that you don't like to have so much schoolwork that you can't grasp all of the information 100%. I always felt the same way when I was in school. But I

never could keep up with all of my courses and, after my freshman year, I never was able to grasp all of the information in more than one math course at a time. So I usually ended up concentrating most of my effort on one math course and doing only what was necessary to get by in the other courses.

Like you, I found that distinguished scholars or researchers are not necessarily good teachers. They often are too absorbed in their research to spend the time that it takes to prepare good lessons.

One of the worst teachers I had at Harvard was a truly great mathematician, John G. Thompson, who had just revolutionized finite-group theory by proving that every group of odd order was solvable. On the first day of class he stated a tricky but essentially trivial little theorem that is always given at the beginning of every introductory course on group theory. Because he hadn't prepared himself he spent some 20 minutes fumbling around trying to prove this theorem, and in the end it was one of the students who showed the great John G. Thompson how to prove it.

Thompson, however, was a very likeable man, very helpful and encouraging to

students who consulted him outside of class. And in the stuffy atmosphere of Harvard he was refreshing because of his informality and because he treated you as an equal rather than with the subtle air of superiority that characterized most of the professors. He wasn't a regular member of the Harvard faculty but was a visiting professor from the University of Chicago.

I can sympathize with your reluctance to be called on by Ms. Stromseth. I always hated to be called on in classes, because, as I've already mentioned, I was never able to keep up with the work — I always lagged behind. Luckily, at Harvard most of the classes were essentially lectures, and students didn't get called on.

I'm a little jealous of your mathematical nick-name. Since I was trained as a mathematician, I ought to have a mathematical nick-name Since you have already appropriated π, I will sign myself

Euler's Constant

(alias Ted Kaczynski)

P.S. Euler's constant is conventionally denoted by γ (lower-case Greek gamma), but unfortunately I don't remember how the constant is defined. I do remember that, at least until the 1960's, the question of whether Euler's constant was rational or irrational was one of the famous unsolved problems of mathematics.

T.K.

[redacted]

September 19, 1998

CLASS I

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for the FIJA pamphlet. I think I'll have it photocopied and send a copy to my attorneys and see what they have to say about it.

In response to your letter of September 1 — Yes, I've noticed that you have a sense of humor, which is one of the reasons why I enjoy corresponding with you.

If you like, you can send me Nietzsche's "On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life."

Yes, I'll write you a letter of recommendation to the Harvard Divinity School. But I would appreciate it if you would tell me more in regard to what the program is all about, so that I'll know better what to put in the letter. Deadline for their receipt of the letter is December 18, right? Shall I just go ahead and send it when I've got it ready? Of course, I'll have to tell them that you're politically incorrect and may possibly let a breath of fresh air into Harvard Divinity School — which would probably suffocate them. But I know how to make it alright. I'll tell them that you're gay, black, and disabled, and then they'll be sure to accept you. Of course, I've never met you, so for all I know you may really be gay, black, and disabled. (Some gay people do get married.)

By the way, I know it's rude to correct people, but I do it anyway; so I'll point out that the singular of "species" is "species" (unless you're talking about money).

Am I to conclude from your letter that you

are Catholic? Interesting, if true, since I had always felt that the Catholic Church was an authoritarian organization, hence not likely to be attractive to one who professes libertarian principles. Would you like to comment ~~about~~ on this? And (since you're a fan of his) what about Nietzsche's thesis that "God ~~is~~ is dead?" (You know, that part where the guy comes into the market-place with a lantern and says, "God is dead, and we have killed him, you and I", or words to that effect.) So, if you're a Catholic, how would you square Catholicism with Nietzsche, or vice versa?

As for the published FBI report that they didn't catalogue the books taken from my cabin, it is bullshit, as is most of what the FBI says. My experience since my arrest has shown me that the incompetence of the FBI is simply beyond belief.

I have held in my hands (several times) a copy of the list of books taken from my cabin which the FBI provided to my lawyers. It's true that they did an utterly half-assed job of cataloguing them — they listed only the titles of the books, not the authors. To give you an idea of how ludicrous this can get, I had a book titled Cuentos by the Uruguayan author Horacio Quiroga, and they identified the book solely by its title "Cuentos". But "Cuentos" means simply "Stories", and I imagine there must be a thousand books in Spanish by that title.

I have no objection whatsoever if you "seek" a list of the books I had in my cabin, but I won't give you such a list unless my lawyers tell me it's legally safe for me to do so. I'll ask them when I get around to it. Pardon the slightly flippant tone of this letter, but I just happen to be in that sort of a mood this evening. Cordial regards — Ted

Theodore John Kaczynski
Number 04475-046
United States Penitentiary
Administrative Maximum Facility
P.O. Box 8500
Florence CO 81226-8500

Dear Dean [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him in connection with his application for admission to your Fellows Program. Why he has asked me, of all people, is best known to himself, but I have acceded to his request, and the letter of recommendation follows.

I must begin by revealing a bias of my own. My training has been in mathematics, and, while my opinion of the social consequences of scientific progress is highly negative, my personal mode of thinking is thoroughly scientific. I consider most (though not all) philosophy and religion to be humbug. I've borrowed the word "humbug" from no less a philosopher than Bertrand Russell, who reportedly regarded it as applicable to most of philosophy. (This according to a clipping I have from the Harvard Crimson, ca. 1958-62, which quotes Russell

without citing any reference that would enable the reader to verify the quote.)

You should understand, therefore, that when I say (as I'm afraid I must) that [redacted] is not competent in the use of analytical reason, I would say the same of most of the philosophers of whose works I have read samples, and would probably say it of most ~~most~~ of the participants in your Fellows Program.

My acquaintance with [redacted] has been through correspondence over the last several months. My impression is that he is very bright and very well-read in his field of interest. Also that he is impetuous and undisciplined. These latter traits probably account, in part, for his lack of competence in analytical reasoning. Very likely they also account for a certain roughness or carelessness in his use of the English language, which leads to a lack of clarity in his written expression.

Because of his impetuosity and lack of discipline, I suspect that [redacted] will not fit in very smoothly at Harv[redacted] School. But he is quite a likeable fellow, and I don't think his impetuosity will prevent him from getting along well with his colleagues in the Fellows Program. In fact, they will probably find him refreshing.

[redacted] I would guess that intellectually, too, Mr. [redacted] will be an unusual member of your Program. He has a distinctly conservative bent (of which I do not approve, any more than

I would approve of a liberal bent if he had one). But it is important to understand that he is by no means a typical conservative. It would be a great mistake to imagine that he is a carbon copy of George Will, or that he fits into any of the standard slots on the conservative side. He is very much his own man, and it seems to me that his opinions are quite independent and original.

He is not likely to agree very much with his colleagues in the Fellows Program, but I think he will challenge them in a constructive way by raising important questions and suggesting original answers to them. If he doesn't persuade his colleagues that his answers are right, he will at any rate force them to reassess, clarify, and perfect their own theories in order to answer his challenge. In other words, he will bring a breath of fresh air to Harvard Divinity School.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore J. Kaczynski

Dear Ted,

OCT 4 1998

The purpose of this letter is to ask you for a favor. The reason (well the main one) why I ask you ~~so~~ is because you are The most qualified person I am able to contact. I recently took a Trig. Exam and lost more Points on a particular question than I deserved to lose. I do not expect you to work for nothing and if you do me this favor I give you my word that I will mail you 1 Book of your choice (UNDER 20$ Please I have very little money). I would also like to read your manifesto (I Someone Told me it was in The Wash. Post) - If There is anywhere I could Purchase it in Book form that you are aware of please tell me (Name & Author Publisher). I am very interested in reading anything & everything I can — Do you recomend anything in particular? If you are not interested in a book Ted you can specify something else as long as you promise to keep it under 20 bucks OR Thank-you Very MUCH.

C)

October 14, 1998

Dear [redacted] SS I

On each of the two problems you sent me I would give you four points out of seven. Here's why: You know how to solve the problems and get the right answer, but you don't know how to show your reasoning in correct and easily-understood form. It's important to be able to communicate your reasoning process to others. And, as you get into more advanced mathematics, which often involves extremely complicated reasoning, you'll find that failure to observe correct form leads to endless confusion.

In your solution to the trigonometry problem, you used the implication sign ($\Rightarrow$) incorrectly. Only statements can imply one another, and

$$\frac{\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)}}{\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)} + \frac{\cos(t)}{\sin(t)}}$$

is not a statement. Apart from that, your solution is arranged in a way that makes it confusing. Here's how I would have solved the problem:

$$\frac{\tan(t)}{\tan(t) + \cot(t)} = \frac{\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)}}{\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)} + \frac{\cos(t)}{\sin(t)}}$$

$$= \frac{\sin(t)\cos(t)\,\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)}}{\sin(t)\cos(t)\left(\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)} + \frac{\cos(t)}{\sin(t)}\right)} = \frac{\sin^2(t)}{\sin(t)\cos(t)\frac{\sin(t)}{\cos(t)} + \sin(t)\cos(t)\frac{\cos(t)}{\sin(t)}}$$

$$= \frac{\sin^2(t)}{\sin^2(t) + \cos^2(t)} = \frac{\sin^2(t)}{1} = \sin^2(t).$$

As for your other problem, you wrote

$63\left(\frac{5}{7}+\frac{5}{9}\right) = \frac{45}{63} + \frac{35}{63}$;) which is not true, since

$63\left(\frac{5}{7}+\frac{5}{9}\right) = 45+35 = 80$, whereas $\frac{45}{63}+\frac{35}{63} = \frac{80}{63}$,

and $80 \neq \frac{80}{63}$. What you meant was:

$$\frac{5}{7}+\frac{5}{9} = \frac{63}{63}\left(\frac{5}{7}+\frac{5}{9}\right) = \frac{1}{63}\left(63\tfrac{5}{7}+63\tfrac{5}{9}\right) = \frac{1}{63}(45+35) = \frac{80}{63}$$

I don't know what your teacher meant when she said your method of finding the common denominator was arbitrary. It doesn't look arbitrary to me, it just looks obvious.

*

Now I'm going to play a really nasty trick on your teacher. I'm going to give you a problem to give her, and if she doesn't get it right, you be sure to give her an F.

Armand, Bartholomew, and Claudius play cards, for pennies. First, Armand wins from Bartholomew as much money as Armand started out with. Then Bartholomew wins from Claudius as much money as Bartholomew had left after losing to Armand. Finally, Claudius wins from Armand as much money as Claudius had left after losing to Bartholomew. Armand, Bartholomew, and Claudius all end up with the same amount of money.

If one of the three started out with fifty cents, which one was it? Prove your answer.

Sincerely yours,
Ted Kaczynski

P.S. I forgot to answer your other questions.

You do me too much honor in assuming me to be the author of the Unabomber's manifesto. People sometimes plead guilty without being so, simply because in a given legal situation that may represent their least undesirable alternative. But, on advice of my attorneys, I will say no more on this subject.

In preparing for trial, my attorneys and I studied the Unabomber's manifesto, and we discovered that all published versions of it were more-or-less mutilated, in that they omitted parts of sentences or whole sentences that appeared in the manuscript of the manifesto that was received by the New York Times, a copy of which was provided to us by the FBI. One edition of the manifesto (mutilated like the others) was published by Jolly Roger Press, P.O. Box 295, Berkeley CA 94701.

You asked me to recommend reading material for you. I could recommend any number of things. Here are just a few: Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, The Harmless People; Colin Turnbull, The Forest People; Calvin Rutstrum, Paradise Below Zero; Vilhjalmur Stefansson, My Life with the Eskimo; Warren Angus Ferris, Life in the Rocky Mountains; Osborn(e?) Russell, Journal of a Trapper; William Dampier, Voyages. If you want to venture into highbrow stuff, try Jacques Ellul, The Technological Society, and Autopsy of Revolution. Maybe not so highbrow: Thomas Carlyle, The French Revolution. And here's a good one: Benvenuto Cellini, Autobiography. Well, I guess that ought to be

enough to keep you busy for a while.

You need not send me a book or do anything else to repay me for answering your questions.

— TK

Your English paper is shocking! When I was your age, if a kid had turned in a paper like that he would have been sent to the principal's office. After giving him a lecture, the principal would have telephoned his parents and advised them to have him examined by a psychiatrist.

Heck, I didn't even know what the word "onanism" meant until I was in my twenties. When I was in high school we were expected to believe that babies were brought by the stork. About that, of course, we had our own ideas, which were only slightly more accurate. But the things kids know today, and ~~to talk about~~ discuss with their teachers ...! Talk about decadence! No wonder the country is going down the drain! Modern kids would corrupt Nero himself. My lawyers will probably order me not to correspond with you anymore lest you ruin my morals.

P.S. Your English paper is enclosed.

Best regards,

Ted Kaczynski

CLASS I

Dear [redacted]

Enclosed find the answer to the problem you sent me about the tank of alcohol and water. But do me a favor — don't send me any more math problems for a while! It costs me too much time to solve them. The truth is that I'm pretty busy. For example, I've just received a list of questions from my lawyer, and it will probably take me at least a couple of days of shuffling through documents and writing in order to answer them properly. And by the time I've finished with that, something else probably will have come up.

I probably shouldn't be writing to you at all, since I can't seem to keep up with the other work. But, what the heck, a guy's got to have some fun in life, and I enjoy writing to you. You're one of only a handful of correspondents of mine whose letters I actually enjoy answering.

Now about that problem of the alcohol in the tank — it may provide us with the problem we're looking for to trip up your physics teacher. As I've explained in the solution of the problem, there is a hidden assumption about the density of alcohol + water solutions. If that assumption is significantly inaccurate (as you'll be able to determine from a table of densities of alcohol + water solutions), and if your physics teacher fails to notice that it is an assumption, then he'll answer the problem incorrectly.

Ideally you ought to use a table to construct a mathematical formula relating the density of an alcohol + water solution to the percentage of alcohol; then you should be able to give a correct solution to the problem. Of course, one could devise similar problems with solutions of substances other than alcohol. (E.g., lye, sulphuric acid, sugar, or whatever.) Some of these solutions may violate the assumption more strongly than the alcohol solution does — the better to trip up your physics teacher. You'll find tables of densities of a variety of solutions in suitable reference books.

I'll answer the rest of your long letter when I can find time.

Best regards,

Ted Kaczynski

In answer to your questions:

(1) What kind of music do I like? Classical. Mainly from Giovanni Gabrieli (ca. 1597) through Mozart and Haydn. My favorite composer is probably Vivaldi.

(2) If I started college again, what would I major in? If I had it all to do over again, I don't think I would go to college at all. I would just go to live in the mountains rather than wasting my time on formal education. If I <u>did</u> go to college I wouldn't major in mathematics, but I'd probably take several math courses because they are good training in clear thinking. Say, three semesters of calculus, a semester of number theory, two semesters of modern algebra, a course in (mathematically rigorous) real analysis, a course in mathematical logic and one in axiomatic set theory. What I <u>would</u> major in, I don't

know. Maybe computer science, but I would major in that only so that I could become a computer saboteur, i.e., one of those guys who invent destructive viruses and that sort of thing. Apart from that I'd probably take a lot of courses in the social "sciences" (note the quotation marks), especially history and cultural anthropology. The reason is that I'd like to know more about how and why societies function and develop as they do.

TED K
[redacted]

October 12, 1994

Dear [redacted]

Today I received your letter of October 4. In my last letter I gave you a formula for rocket fuel, consisting of potassium nitrate and sucrose. In your letter of October 4 you suggested replacing the potassium nitrate with potassium chlorate or perchlorate. Don't try it! It's dangerous! Really.

A mixture of potassium chlorate and sucrose is known to be dangerously sensitive to friction. A chemistry book that I read many years ago stated, "Many students have been seriously injured by attempting this experiment," the experiment in question being mixing potassium chlorate with sucrose. I would never recommend that you mix potassium chlorate with any combustible matter, since such mixtures have a reputation of being freakish as far as sensitivity is concerned.

When I was in high school, having some time to kill in the chemistry lab one day, I mixed a minute amount of potassium chlorate with an equally minute amount of a certain combustible substance — I won't tell you what it is because I wouldn't want you to try the experiment. I took half of the mixture on the tip of a spatula and stuck it in a bunsen-burner flame. It made a little pop. My lab partner saw this, wrapped the rest of the mixture in a scrap of paper and dropped it in an empty crucible that

was sitting over a bunsen-burner flame on the lab table behind us. The result was another little pop. One of the kids at that lab table, who happened to be a nitwit, asked me what the ingredients of the mixture were. Without stopping to think, I told him. He immediately dumped his entire supply of potassium chlorate, and his entire supply of the other substance, onto a piece of paper and started mixing them. The entire quantity might have been a couple of tablespoonfuls. Some of us kids who ~~the~~ were less unwise than this ~~kid~~ guy kept trying to dissuade him from what he was doing, but he just ignored us. Finally I said, "I wash my hands of it" and turned my back. A few seconds later, KA-BOOM! The kid suffered no serious injury, but it was almost a miracle. He had rolled the mixture up in a piece of paper and twisted it tight. I was told by someone who actually saw the explosion that the thing went off when he was finished twisting it and was just putting it down on the table between his thumb and forefinger. It would have been much more likely to go off when he had it clenched in his fist and was twisting it, and if it had done so he probably would have blown off some of his fingers.

So you can see why it is dangerous to mix chlorates with combustible matter.

Potassium perchlorate is probably less dangerous ~~than~~ than potassium chlorate, but even so you shouldn't mess with it. Quite a few years ago I read a newspaper item about a high-school physics-teacher who made a rocket to demonstrate to his class. He filled a piece of pipe with a mixture of potassium perchlorate and sucrose, with a short fuse. He took his class out into the schoolyard for the demonstration, and, with all the kids clustered around, he put a match to the fuse. KA-BOOM! The teacher and several of the students were killed. (Well, what can you expect of a physicist?)

So I hope you are now convinced that it would be dangerous to replace the KNO_3, in the KNO_3 + sucrose mixture, with potassium chlorate or perchlorate. The same goes for other oxidizing agents such as potassium permanganate, etc.

I'll answer the rest of your October 4 letter later, but I wanted to get this letter sent off to you promptly, just in case you were thinking of actually trying that experiment, i.e., mixing potassium chlorate or perchlorate with sucrose.

Best regards,

Ted Kaczynski

You asked me about my own hobbies. When I was a teenager I used to collect coins. I also used to make rockets, some of which actually flew. My procedures were not very scientific. When I mixed up a batch of fuel I never weighed the ingredients (didn't have anything to weigh them with); I just judged the quantities by eye. So after mixing up a batch I used to test it by igniting a bit of it to see whether it would burn decently. On one occasion I mixed about a cupful of fuel and set it on the basement floor on a piece of paper. Then I put a small lump[3] of it on the floor about 10 feet away and ignited it with a match. Normally, when a lump of this stuff was ignited it would just spin around and around without moving very far. But in this case the jet of gas from the lump propelled it straight as an arrow, right at the main batch of fuel on the paper. I tried to stop it by putting my foot down on it just ~~before~~ an instant before it reached the main batch. Too late. The main batch ignited, and I could feel the pressure of the gas pushing my shoe up, so I jerked my foot away. The column of flame shot up almost to the ceiling, the whole house was filled with smoke, my parents came

---

3- The stuff was somewhat hygroscopic, so it tended to form lumps.

TED KACZYNSKI
to

010100

June 27, 2001

Dear Mr.

You're back! It's been quite a while since I've heard from you.

You say you're studying pharmacy. Does that mean you're learning agriculture so that you can be a pharmer? No, I guess that's spelled differently. * * * Okay, I just looked up "pharmacy" in the dictionary. Now I understand! You want to deal in drugs. Hmm, I didn't know you needed a college degree for that. Some of the drug dealers who were in the Sacramento County Jail when I was there ... well, enough said.

You also write that you're not terribly interested in pharmacy. Well For a more exciting career, why don't you move up to Eugene, Oregon, and become a professional revolutionary? Anarchism is the coming thing nowadays. It's a growth industry. And the general level of ability among anarchists is such that anyone with the smallest modicum of intelligence and self-discipline would quickly rise to the top among them. Anarchists supposedly don't accept leadership, but most of them are so disorganized mentally that they wouldn't know whether they were being led or not. If you joined the movement, I guarantee

[redacted]

My name is [redacted] and I am a graduate student in Mathematics at the [redacted]e.

I am writing to request your help. I have been puzzled by a math problem for several years. I haven't spent a lot of time trying to solve it, but yet my mind keeps coming back to it, and all of my professors have been stumped by it. I have tried writing to mathematicians around the country, and none have been able to help me in any way.

The problem in question is a problem in probability and/or decision analysis. The problem is extremely straightforward, but yet its solution eludes me. I'm not sure if this is your field of expertise, but I want to know if you will help me.

I make no judgments concerning your current situation. I merely am asking for your help as a mathematician, With your permission, I will send you the problem. If you do not care to correspond with me, I will respect your wishes.

[redacted]

Ted Kaczynski to [redacted] October 8, 1998

You can send me your probability problem if you like, but I doubt that I'll be able to do anything with it, since I never studied any probability theory beyond the derivation of the Gaussian bell-shaped curve.

Meanwhile, here's a problem for you. Let the unit interval be divided into n equal subintervals $I_1, I_2, \cdots, I_n$. Let P_k be any parallelogram in the complex plane such that one side of P_k is $\{x+0i : x \in I_k\}$ and another side of P_k is $\{x+1i : x \in J_k\}$, where J_k is any subinterval of $[0,1]$ of length $\frac{1}{n}$. Let R_k be the region enclosed by P_k and let

$$A_n(P_1, P_2, \cdots, P_n) = \text{measure of the set } \bigcup_{k=1}^{n} R_k .$$

In other words, $A_n(P_1, \cdots, P_n)$ is the total area covered by all of the parallelograms $P_1, \cdots, P_n$.

Let $\alpha(n)$ be the minimum value of $A_n(P_1, \cdots, P_n)$ as $P_1, \cdots, P_n$ range over all possible choices of the parallelograms.

1. Prove that $\alpha(n) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$

2. Do there exist constants $c_-, c_+ > 0$ such that $\frac{c_-}{n} \leq \alpha(n) \leq \frac{c_+}{n}$ for all n?

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1. Prove that $\alpha(n) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$

2. Do there exist constants $c_-, c_+ > 0$ such that $\frac{c_-}{\log n} \leq \alpha(n) \leq \frac{c_+}{\log n}$ for all n?

3. Does the sequence $\alpha(n)$ decrease monotonically?

I can solve Problem 1. As for Problem 2, I can prove that the constant c_- exists, and, if I remember right, I can prove there is a constant c such that $\alpha(n) \leq c(\log\log n)^2/\log n$ for all n. But I'm not sure I remember the latter formula correctly.

As for Problem 3, though the statement seems obvious, I don't see how to prove it.

Sincerely yours,

Ted Kaczynski

[redacted]

[redacted]

4/13/98

Mr. Theodore Kaczynski
c/o Ms. Judy Clarke, Attorney at Law
Office of United States District Court Judge Garland Burrell, Jr.
4014 United States Court House
650 Capital Mall
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

Dear Mr. Kaczynski:

We wanted to let you know that my Social Philosophy course this semester is reading your *Industrial Society and its Future*, along with Stephen Nathanson's *Economic Justice* (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1998) and my *Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern and Western Thought* (Humanities Press, Atlantic Highlands, N.J., 1996), and library sources.

Due to the wide availability of your work on the Internet and in the public domain, it has been possible for my students to have ready access to it.

Not having to request permission for its use, we nevertheless wanted to extend our thanks to you for its availability. Many of its points resonate with members of the class.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

4/13/98

Mr. Theodore Kaczynski
c/o Ms. Judy Clarke, Attorney at Law
Office of United States District Court Judge Garland Burrell, Jr.
4014 United States Court House
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Sacramento, Calif. 95814

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Not having to request permission for its use, we nevertheless wanted to extend our thanks to you for its availability. Many of its points resonate with members of the class.

Sincerely yours,

TED KACZYNSKI

August 24, 2001

to

[redacted] #3

DAVIS C[redacted]

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I apologize for taking so long to answer your letter of March 11, 2001. During my first couple of years here at the ADX correspondence ate up most of my time, so in order to have time for other things I've had to make correspondence one of my last priorities. This means that it often takes me a long, long time to answer a letter.

I have never participated in a lottery, I know nothing about lotteries, and the information you gave in your letter is not sufficient to enable me to answer your questions. I don't know what a "powerball" is, I don't know how many numbers are on each lottery ticket, I don't know what a winning set of tickets would be, I don't know the number of tickets sold or the size of the pot. Without all that information and more, I can't answer your questions. And I suspect that even if I had all the necessary information the calculation would be so complicated that it would take far more time than I would be willing to spend on it.

But I may be able to say something in answer to your question number 5. In order to pay the cost of conducting the lottery

and have something left over for profit, the people who run the lottery have to collect a great deal more money, as paid for tickets, than the total amount of money that they give to holders of winning tickets. This means that, on average, the money received by a ticket purchaser has to be much less than the amount he pays for tickets. Consequently the ticket-buyer's mathematical expectation is negative. In other words, if he keeps buying tickets over an extended period, the probability is that he will lose more than he wins. Unless, of course, he has some way to influence the probabilities in his own favor; but I imagine that, in order to make the lottery as "fair" as possible, the people who run it have designed it so as to minimize opportunities for influencing the probabilities in one's own favor.

However, playing the lottery is not necessarily stupid. For one thing, a person might play the lottery for entertainment. In the long run he can expect to lose money, but that loss could be regarded as simply a price that he pays for entertainment — just as he might pay money to go to a movie or a sporting event.

For another thing, the concept of mathematical expectation is based on the somewhat unreal assumption that the value

of money is always exactly proportional to its quantity; for example, that a ticket-buyer considers one million dollars to have exactly one million times as much value to him as one dollar does.

But in practice that might not be true. Let us assume — "arguendo," as the lawyers say — that a lottery ticket costs one dollar and gives the purchaser a one-in-two-million chance of winning a million dollars. The ticket-buyer's mathematical expectation of gain is then

$$1{,}000{,}000 \times \frac{1}{2{,}000{,}000}, \text{ or } 50¢.$$

Balanced against the ticket price of one dollar, this gives him a net loss of 50¢. However, the one-dollar ticket price may mean virtually nothing to the ticket-buyer, and if he won the million dollars he would be able to retire and live on the interest for the rest of his life. Whether it is worth his while to buy the one-dollar ticket will depend on just how much he values the opportunity to live without working. So, as you suggested, it is a matter of personal choice.

Please give my regards to [redacted] if you're still working at the Federal Defenders Office.

Sincerely yours,
Ted Kaczynski

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Box 41042
Lubbock, TX 79409-1042
(806) 742-2566
FAX (806)742-1112

Someone must have sent them something in my name as a ~~prank~~ prank.
— TJK 4/2/02

March 25, 2002

Teddy Kaczynski
P O Box 7500
Florence, CO 81226

Dear Teddy,

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Texas Tech University. We have an excellent department and believe that you would find it advantageous to continue your studies with us. Our graduate mathematics and statistics programs are very broad in scope offering both a Ph.D. and a masters degree with areas of concentration in Applied Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, and Statistics. We also offer a masters of science degree with an emphasis in computer science and a master of arts degree for those people interested in teaching at the pre-university level.

An application for a teaching assistantship is enclosed along with a description of our graduate degree programs. Please fill out this application, and return it to me as soon as possible. Along with this application, I will also need a current copy of your transcripts and three letters of recommendation. Please send the application to me even if you have not taken the Graduate Record Exam. The beginning stipend for the 2002-2003 academic year is $12,900 with an excellent chance of summer support. Out-of-state tuition is waived for teaching assistants and excellent medical benefits are provided.

Your name and address have been forwarded to the Graduate Admissions office which will send you pertinent information and forms for admission into the Texas Tech University Graduate School. The Graduate Admissions office will need an official copy of your transcripts and your Graduate Record Exam scores.

For further information regarding Texas Tech University, visit the university web page at www.texastech.edu or the department's web page at www.math.ttu.edu. If I may be of further help, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at graddir@math.ttu.edu or phone me at (806)742-2566.

Sincerely,

Harold R Bennett
Professor
Director of Graduate Studies

HRB:jmw
enclosure

TED KACZYNSKI
[redacted] to

April 22, 1999

CLASS I

Dear

I'm sorry that I couldn't answer your letter before the due-date of your paper, but for the last two weeks I've been desperately busy preparing a legal motion to meet a deadline

I'm not going To try To answer your questions #1 and #2, because to do that subject justice I would have to write a much longer letter than I have time for. However, you might want To read an article by Marvin Minsky that appeared in Scientific American magazine in, I think, October 1994.

As for your questions concerning the Y2K problem, I have no technical expertise that would enable me to answer them intelligently. However, my <u>uneducated</u> guess is that the problem is nowhere near as serious as some people have claimed. It may well result in some serious inconvenience, but I think it's unlikely that it will lead to a major disaster.

With best wishes, and hoping that you got an A on your paper —

Ted Kaczynski

#14

TED KACZYNSKI
to

0801.

October 28, 2003

Dear Mr. or Ms. :

In your note of October 14 you write that you would love to receive a letter from me. Well, here it is. It's probably the last letter you will get from me, though, since I just don't have time to correspond with all the people who would like to correspond with me.

You say you're learning about me in your sociology class. I shudder to think what they must be teaching you. A vast amount of nonsense has been published about me, and your teacher can have no way of sorting out what is true from what is false.

Best regards,
Ted Kaczynski

[Sent to

0905.0

12/14/04

Dear Mr. Kaczynski,

I am a junior in high school, and I have tried very hard to form a math club, hoping to stimulate my peers' interest in mathematics. Much to my dismay, I have found out that math does not interest many people. I was thinking about giving a talk about local mathematicians and you were the first person that came to mind as you were a student at U of M.

I just want some input from you if you don't mind writing to a kid...

First, is mathematics a worthwhile endeavor? If so, why do students fear it so much?

Second, why did you quit math? Do you believe math is the mother of all sciences?

Finally, what parts of math do you like and what do you rec-

commend students to study?
(I like combinatorics and
number theory!)

Hope you can give me some
advice. Thank you,

Sincerely,

TED KACZYNSKI

December 20, 2004

0905.0

Dear Mr.

In your letter of December 14, you ask me whether mathematics is a worthwhile endeavor. Mathematics absolutely is not a worthwhile endeavor! I can imagine only three possible reasons for studying mathematics:

(1) Entertainment.

(2) To promote technological progress.

(3) To promote one's own career.

Reason (1) is harmless; but one doesn't refer to entertainment as a "worthwhile endeavor"; it's just a pastime.

As for reason (2), modern technology is the worst thing that ever happened to the world, and to promote its progress is nothing short of criminal. Read Our Final Century, by Martin Rees; or read "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us", an article by Bill Joy that appeared in Wired magazine, April, 2000.

As for reason (3), to choose mathematics as one's career would be very risky. Not long ago I received a letter from a gravestone sculptor whose craft had been rendered obsolete by a laser-guided machine that carved gravestones automatically. He was in his forties, unable to find work, and depressed. Maybe you think that can't happen to you if you become a mathematician. But you're wrong. Martin Rees, Bill Joy, and many other distinguished experts believe that within a few decades machines will be developed that will be more intelligent than even the smartest human beings. When that happens, people will be obsolete; they will be phased out and will be replaced by computers and robots. This will happen to everyone eventually, but mathematicians probably will become obsolete before anyone else does, because mathematics is more amenable to computerization than any other field. Hence, computers probably will surpass humans in mathematics before they do so in other areas.

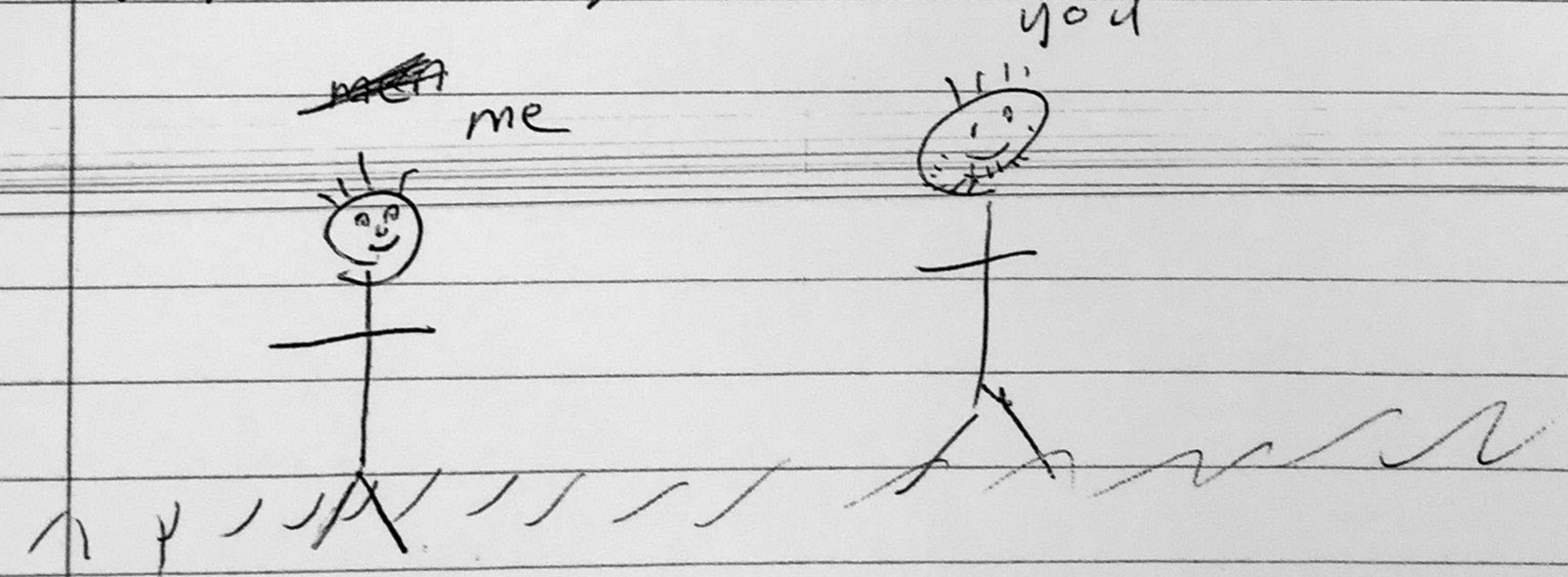
Sincerely yours,

Ted Kaczynski

Postmark 6/27/05

0928.0

Hi My Name is [redacted]
I would tell you My last
name but My teacher
told [redacted] me Not to.
I am 8 years old and
[redacted] I just wanted to
say that I am sorry
that you have to stay
in jail, and that I dont
think that they sould keep
you there, and that I
what ever you [redacted] did
I think you still are a
nice person! I drew you
a picture [redacted]



TED KACZYNSKI
to

August 31, 2010
[Corrected first draft, SAVE. There is no carbon copy.]

Dear Mr.

Thank you for your undated letter postmarked 7/19/10, which I received on 8/9/10.

Unfortunately I am unable to address your concerns, because I find your letter largely illegible. However, in one of the few parts of your letter that I am able to read, you write that you are a freunar at the GA Institute of Tccmology and that you are najoriy in Matherwatics. I conjecture that "matherwatics" is southern dialect for "mathematics". Assuming that this conjecture is correct, I can infer a certain likelihood that you are involved in mathematics in some way.

Listen, my friend, I wasted eleven years of my life on mathematics and I regret every minute of it. My advice to you is: Drop this silly mathematics racket and prepare yourself instead to become a professional revolutionary. Take courses in foreign languages -- Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, German, Russian -- especially Russian -- take history and other social sciences such as organizational behavior and the theory of propaganda, as well as chemistry, martial arts, cryptology, etc., etc.

A professional revolutionary is not absolutely required to do anything illegal. (It is especially advisable to avoid doing anything illegal if you have a jealous little brother who is just itching for a chance to turn you in to the FBI.) And as a professional revolutionary you will enjoy certain special advantages. Inter alia, you will gain the honorable title of "comrade". Just imagine how impressed girls will be when you are introduced to them as "Comrade Mc Burnett". You should read Joseph Conrad's novel The Secret Agent, wherein Comrade Ossipon's success with the ladies will open your eyes to certain possibilities in this direction.

My own book, Technological Slavery, will tell you everything you need to know in order to become a professional revolutionary. You can get a copy by sending $22.95 plus $5.50 for shipping, total $28.45, to FERAL HOUSE

1240 W. SIMS WAY #124

PORT TOWNSEND WA 98368

email: info@feralhouse.com OR www.feralhouse.com

But you can get a copy much cheaper by ordering it from amazon.com.

For the Revolution,

Ted Kaczynski

Dear Dr. Kaczynski, 2/19/2011

My name is _____ and I am currently a student at Harvard University. I recently read your essay "Industrial Society and its Future." and was quite moved. While I still have time ahead of me, I was curious how best to react to the predicament that we find ourselves in — this industrial Society of ours. I was also curious as to what experiences informed your interpretation of the world. The revelation first struck me as I was translating Hesiod; I later recalled hearing that you had written something similar and so read it. I was astonished at the degree to which you were on point in the first half of the essay but was left uncertain as to what to do next, and so decided to write to you. I hope to follow the agrarian ideals someday in a form, as soon as I have some minimal sum of capital.

I am also curious about your experiences at

Harvard, how you spent your time here, and your opinions of the place. If you have the time and interest to respond, my address is below.

Sincerely,

TED KACZYNSKI

February 28, 2011

NOT SENT

Dear Mr. (sp?):

When I first received your letter I was uncertain whether it was written in Sumerian, Chaldean, or one of the Paleo-Siberian languages. Examining the letter under strong magnification, however, I began to perceive certain figures that seemed faintly to resemble letters of the cursive form of the Roman alphabet. Some of these letters even appeared in combinations that could be speculatively interpreted as words of the English language. Proceeding, then, upon the hypothesis that your letter represented an attempt to write English, I spent several hours diligently applying the methods that Michael Ventris had used with Cretan Linear B, and -- incredibly -- I actually succeeded in deciphering your letter, or most of it. This is a feat that surpasses even the cracking of the Japanese code during World War II. I'm so proud of myself that now I'm thinking of undertaking the decipherment of Linear A.

I do think, however, that it's time for Harvard to begin requiring all students to take a course in penmanship.

In what I have just written you will perhaps detect a subtle undercurrent of levity, but in the remainder of this letter I will endeavor to address your concerns in a totally sober frame of mind.

First, since you liked ISAIF ("Industrial Society

TJK to ' (8/16/11) should be 8/22/11.

I don't know whether I made this error on the copy I sent to Wellman. —TJK 5/3/12

indicated some possible scenarios for the future of the human race, the last of which began: "[I]f the elite consist of soft-hearted liberals, they may decide to play the role of good shepherds to the rest of the humian race; ..." Etc. Of course, I didn't mean to propose this type of outcome as a possible endpoint for the development of human society. It was merely a stage through which I thought human society might pass before developing further; I was not prepared to offer any conjectures as to where that further development might lead.

I now think it is highly improbable that the human race will pass through a "soft-hearted liberal" stage; or rather, I think that we have already passed through as much of a "soft-hearted liberal" stage as we will ever see, and that as economic and environmental problems make it increasingly difficult to provide for seven billion human beings, surplus people will be treated with growing ruthlessness, though the ruthlessness will be masked where possible with purportedly humanitarian intentions, and where it cannot be masked will be justified in terms of "necessity".

In answer to your question, yes, I would

indeed like to know which of my arguments your students find most or least convincing. I know three other college or university teachers who have assigned ISAIF or Technological Slavery, or portions thereof, in courses dealing in whole or in part with the social consequences of technological progress. All three of these teachers have reported high levels of interest on the part of students and some of the three have transmitted to me questions raised by students or have indicated to me some of the students' concerns. But none of the three have given me any specific information as to which arguments the students have found most or least convincing. Maybe I should ask them.

Sincerely yours,
Ted Kaczynski

March 13, 2013

Dear Mr. Kaczynski,

I assume that you will not write back because I expect that you receive multitudes of letters and I am sure you don't want to spend all of your free time replying to letters. I hope you do not find my letter to be inane, nor would I like to ask questions to which I could already found answers in your manifesto, online, etc. But there is something to be said for engaging in discourse with someone even if they may have to repeat something they've said in the past. I purchased a letter you wrote to Jess Miller, written on November 15, 2011, and although the letter is comprised of bibliographical matters, I felt that at least attempting to start a conversation with you would be worth a shot. It has taken me over eight months to bring myself to finish writing this letter.

I am a twenty-two-year-old student pursuing my Masters in Fine Arts. I am a painter. I have always felt as though I don't feel emotion the way other people do, and I found solace when I read your theory of oversocialization because you seemed to understand the thoughts I could not express to anyone else. I also read how you feel about IQ test; however, I've begun to wonder if the ability to be one of the few who are not affected by oversocialization, and the ability to truly understand oversocialization, are linked to high IQs.

Yet, I often wonder if those people who feign normalcy are, in fact, "smarter," or wiser than those of us who do not attempt to do so. Does genuineness or sincerity matter? Suppose if I, hypothetically, worked for a company and wanted to further my career, feigning interest in small-talk, and ass kissing (pardon my crassness), it would seem wise to act as though I, too, were oversocialized, like my peers, because it would be beneficial to do so. You were confident enough to renounce assimilation, but your brain had fully developed by then. Because I still have three years before my brain fully develops, I am still trying to figure out what I want for my future. The longer I wait, will I become increasingly affected by the desire to do what is expected of me?

Have you read Michel Foucault? I just finished a paper focusing on "Body/Power," in which Foucault explains his theory that our institutions in power teach us "truths," or "epistemes," and that members of society engage in self-regulation, or "panopticism." I know this is a very simple explanation, and if you are familiar with Foucault, I did not intend to sound pretentious or cavalier, because I am fully aware that you are incredibly well-read.

I don't know if you tire of compliments and repetitive questions, but I would like to ask what I hope is a question that no one else has asked you. I wonder how you feel about Howard Zinn. I read "A People's History of The United States in eighth grade, and had many qualms about it at the time, granted, this was before I had ever studied Marx and Engels, and the ideals

of pure socialism (as opposed to the term "socialism" that the general public confuses with communism due to widespread obliviousness). However, I find Zinn's voice to be excessively subjective to the point where he clearly omits information merely for the sake of furthering his political agenda.

I also have another question which I hope you haven't answered too many times: if a non-Leftist society creates hierarchies due to race, class, intelligence,etc., how can Leftists claim that they do not believe that their way of life and their ideals are not superior to those of the non-Leftists? Even embracing cynicism and an "underdog" mentality does not mean this given group of people do not consider their mentality preferable, or superior. Honestly, I can't figure out whether you consider yourself a Leftist, or not, because you provide both a strong thesis,and a strong antithesis in your manifesto.

I truly hope you have read my letter, and that you will write back, because I have found it very difficult to connect with or relate to people, and even if you don't have the time to respond, or find me too ignorant or pretentious, I will at least know that although we may not agree on every level, I know there is at least one individual in this world with whom I feel a connection.

As I said, it has taken me more than eight months to bring myself to finish writing this letter. I am not merely a serial killer buff, nor do I want to write a letter blindly praising you. I genuinely would, ideally, like to engage in a discourse with you, and would like for you to consider me someone with whom you would like to converse. In reality, I am just a girl who is trying to become a teacher or professor, but do not disregard me due to my age, or because my major is painting—I am fully capable of engaging in academic and intellectual conversation,and honestly, I am desperate to talk to someone with whom I can have a real conversation.

Sincerely,

P.S. Please address any correspondence to "Recipient". I cannot receive mail at my apartment and must use a friend's mailbox (and she is uncomfortable with me relaying her name). Thank you.